

PRO

That is accounted *probable*, which has better arguments producible for it, than can be brought against it. *South.*
They assented to things, that were neither evident nor certain, but only *probable*; for they converted, they merchandized upon a *probable* persuasion of the honesty and truth of those whom they corresponded with. *South's Sermons.*
PROBABLY, *adv.* [from *probable*.] Likely; in likelihood.
Distinguishing betwixt what may possibly, and what will probably be done. *L'Estrange's Fables.*
Our constitution in church or state could not *probably* have been long preserved, without such methods. *Swift.*
PROBAT. *n. f.* [Latin.] The proof of wills and testaments of persons deceased in the spiritual court, either in common form by the oath of the executor, or with witnesses. *Dict.*
PROBATION, *n. f.* [*probatio*, Lat. from *probo*, Lat. *probation*, Fr.]

1. Proof; evidence; testimony.
Of the truth herein,
This present object made *probation*. *Shakep. Hamlet.*
He was lapt in a most curious mantle, which, for more *probation*, I can produce. *Shakep. Cymbeline.*

2. The act of proving by ratiocination or testimony.
When their principles, what is, is, and it is impossible for the same thing to be, and not to be, are made use of in the *probation* of propositions, wherein are words standing for complex ideas, as man or horse, there they make men receive and retain falsehood for manifest truth. *Locke.*

3. [*Probation*, Fr.] Trial; examination.
In the practical part of knowledge, much will be left to experience and *probation*, whereunto indication cannot so fully reach. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

4. Trial before entrance into monastic life; novitiate.
I suffer many things as an author militant, whereof, in your days of *probation*, you have been a sharer. *Pope to Swift.*

PROBATIONARY, *adj.* [from *probation*.] Serving for trial.
PROBATIONER, *n. f.* [from *probation*.]

1. One who is upon trial.
Hear a mortal muse thy praise rehearse,
In no ignoble verse;
But such as thy own verse did practise here,
When thy first fruits of poetry were giv'n,
To make thyself a welcome inmate there;
While yet a young *probationer*,
And candidate of heav'n. *Dryden.*

2. A novice.
Build a thousand churches, where these *probationers* may read their wall lectures. *Swift.*

This root of bitterness was but a *probationer* in the soil; and though it set forth some offsets to preserve its kind, yet Satan was fain to cherish them. *Decay of Piety.*

PROBATIONERSHIP, *n. f.* [from *probationer*.] State of being a *probationer*; novitiate.

He has afforded us only the twilight of probability, suitable to that state of mediocrity and *probationership*, he has been pleased to place us in here, wherein to check our over-confidence. *Locke.*

PROBATORY, *adj.* [from *probo*, Lat.] Serving for trial.
Job's afflictions were no vindictory punishments, but *probatory* chastisements to make trial of his graces. *Bramhall.*

PROBATUM EST. A Latin expression added to the end of a receipt, signifying it is tried or proved.

Vain the concern that you express,
That uncall'd Alard will possess
Your house and coach both day and night,
And that Macbeth was haunted less
By Banquo's restless sprite:
Lend him but fifty louis d'or,
And you shall never see him more;
Take my advice *probatum est*?
Why do the gods indulge our store,
But to secure our rest. *Prior.*

PROBE, *n. f.* [from *probo*, Lat.] A slender wire by which surgeons search the depth of wounds.

I made search with a *probe*. *Wise's Surgery.*

PROBE-SCISSORS, *n. f.* [*probe* and *scissor*.] Scissors used to open wounds, of which the blade thrust into the orifice has a button at the end.

The finus was snipt up with *probe-scissors*. *Wise's Surgery.*

TO PROBE, *v. a.* [*probo*, Lat.] To search; to try by an instrument.

Nothing can be more painful, than to *probe* and search a purulent old sore to the bottom. *South's Sermons.*

He'd raise a bluish, where secret vice he found;
And tickle, while he gently *prob'd* the wound. *Dryden.*

PROBITY, *n. f.* [*probitas*, Fr. *probitas*, Lat.] Honesty; sincerity; veracity.

The truth of our Lord's ascension, might be deduced from the *probitas* of the apostles. *Fiddes's Sermons.*

So near approach we their celestial kind,
By justice, truth, and *probitas* of mind. *Pope.*

PROBLEM, *n. f.* [*problema*, Fr. *πρόβλημα*, Gr.] A question proposed.

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The *problem* is, whether a man constantly and strongly believing, that such a thing shall be, it doth help any thing to the effecting of the thing. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

Although in general one understood colours, yet were it not an easy *problem* to resolve, why grass is green? *Bacon.*

This *problem* let philosophers resolve.

What makes the globe from West to East revolve. *Blackm.*

PROBLEMATICAL, *adj.* [from *problem*; *problematicus*, Fr.] Uncertain; unsettled; disputed; disputable.

I promised no better arguments than might be expected in a point *problematical*. *Boyle.*

Diligent enquiries into remote and *problematical* guilt, leave a gate wide open to the whole tribe of informers. *Swift.*

PROBLEMATICALLY, *adv.* [from *problematical*.] Uncertainly.

PROBOSCIS, *n. f.* [*proboscis*, Lat.] A snout; the trunk of an elephant; but it is used also for the same part in every creature, that bears any resemblance therunto.

The elephant wreath'd to make them sport
His lithe *proboscis*. *Milton.*

PROCA'CIUS, *adj.* [*procax*, Lat.] Petulant; loose. *Dict.*

PROCA'CIETY, *n. f.* [from *procax*.] Petulance. *Dict.*

PROCATARCTIC, *adj.* [*προκαταρκτικός*, Gr.] Forerunning; antecedent. See *PROCATARCTIS*.

James IV. of Scotland, falling away in his death, without the precedence of any *procatarctick* cause, was suddenly cured by decharming the witchcraft. *Harvey on Consumption.*

The physician enquires into the *procatarctick* causes. *Harvey.*

PROCATARCTIS, *n. f.* [*προκαταρκτική*, Gr.]

Procatarctis is the pre-existent cause of a disease, which co-operates with others that are subsequent, whether internal or external; as anger or heat of climate, which bring such an ill disposition of the juices, as occasion a fever: the ill disposition being the immediate cause, and the bad air the *procatarctick* cause. *Quincy.*

PROCEDURE, *n. f.* [*procedure*, Fr. from *proceed*.]

1. Manner of proceeding; management; conduct.
This is the true *procedure* of conscience, always supposing a law from God, before it lays obligation upon man. *South.*

2. Act of proceeding; progress; process; operation.
Although the distinction of these several *procedures* of the soul do not always appear distinct, especially in sudden actions, yet in actions of weight, all these have their distinct order and *procedure*. *Hale's Origin of Morality.*

3. Produce; thing produced.
No known substance, but earth and the *procedures* of earth, as tile and stone, yieldeth any morsel or herby substance. *Bacon.*

TO PROCEED, *v. n.* [*procedo*, Lat. *procedo*, Fr.]

1. To pass from one thing or place to another.
Adam
Proceeded thus to ask his heav'nly guest. *Milton.*

Then to the prelude of a war *proceeds*;
His horns, yet fore, he tries against a tree. *Dryden.*

I shall *proceed* to more complex ideas. *Locke.*

2. To go forward; to tend to the end designed.
Temp'rately *proceed* to what you would
Thus violently redress. *Shakep. Coriolanus.*

These things, when they *proceed* not, they go backward.
Benj. Johnson's Cautions.

3. To come forth from a place or from a sender.
I *proceeded* forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. *Jo. viii. 42.*

4. To go or march in state.
He ask'd a clear stage for his muse to *proceed* in. *Ann.*

5. To issue; to arise; to be the effect of; to be produced from.
A dagger of the mind, a false creation
Proceeding from the heat oppress'd brain. *Shakep. Macbeth.*

From me what *proceed*
But all corrupt, both mind and will both deprav'd. *Milt.*

All this *proceeded* not from any want of knowledge. *Dryd.*

6. To prosecute any design.
He that *proceeds* upon other principles, in his enquiry into any sciences, posts himself in a party. *Locke.*

Since husbandry is of large extent, the poet singles out such precepts to *proceed* on, as are capable of ornament. *Addis.*

7. To be transacted; to be carried on.
He will, after his four fashion tell you,
What hath *proceeded* worthy note to-day. *Shakep.*

8. To make progress; to advance.
Violence
Proceeded, and oppression and sword law
Through all the plain. *Milton.*

9. To carry on juridical process.
Proceed by process, left parties break out,
And sack great Rome with Romans. *Shakep.*

Instead of a ship, to levy upon his county such a sum of money for his majesty's use, with direction in what manner he should *proceed* against such as refused. *Clarendon.*

To judgment he *proceeded* on the accus'd. *Milton.*

10. To transact; to act; to carry on any affair methodically.
From them I will not hide
My judgments, how with mankind I *proceed*;
As how with peccant angels late they law. *Milton.*

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How severely with themselves *proceed*,
The men who write such verse as who can read?
Their own strict judges, not a word they spare,
That wants or force, or right, or weight, or care. *Pope.*

11. To take effect; to have its course.
This rule only *proceeds* and takes place, when a person cannot of common law condemn another by his sentence. *Addis.*

12. To be propagated; to come by generation.
From my loins thou shalt *proceed*. *Milton.*

13. To be produced by the original efficient cause.
O Adam, one Almighty is, from whom
All things *proceed*, and up to him return. *Milton.*

PROCEED, *n. f.* [from the verb.] Produce: as, the proceeds of an estate. *Clarissa.* Not an imitable word, though much used in law writings.

PROCEEDER, *n. f.* [from *proceed*.] One who goes forward; one who makes a progress.

He that seeketh victory over his nature, let him not set himself too great nor too small tasks; for the first will make him dejected by often failing; and the second will make him a small *proceeder*, though by often prevailing. *Bacon.*

PROCEEDING, *n. f.* [*proceed*, Fr. from *proceed*.]

1. Progress from one thing to another; series of conduct; transaction.
I'll acquaint our duteous citizens,
With all your just *proceedings* in this case. *Shakep.*

My dear love
To your *proceedings* bids me tell you this. *Shakep.*

The understanding brought to knowledge by degrees, and, in such a general *proceeding*, nothing is hard. *Locke.*

It is a very unusual *proceeding*, and I would not have been guilty of it for the world. *Arbuthnot's Hist. of J. Bull.*

From the earliest ages of christianity, there never was a precedent of such a *proceeding*. *Swift.*

2. Legal procedure: as, such are the proceedings at law.

PROCEEDINGS, *adj.* [*proceeding*, Lat.] Tempestuous. *Dict.*

PROCEPTION, *n. f.* Preoccupation; act of taking something sooner than another. A word not in use.

Having too little power to offend others, that I have none to preserve what is mine own from their *preception*. *King Charles.*

PROCE'RTY, *n. f.* [from *procerus*, Lat.] Tallness; height of stature.

We shall make attempts to lengthen out the humane figure, and restore it to its ancient *procerity*. *Addis.*

PROCESS, *n. f.* [*process*, Fr. *processus*, Latin.]

1. Tendency; progressive course.
That there is somewhat higher than either of these two, no other proof doth need, than the very *process* of man's desire, which being natural should be frustrate, if there were not some farther thing wherein it might rest at the length contented, which in the former it cannot do. *Hooker.*

2. Regular and gradual progress.
Commend me to your honourable wife;
Tell her the *process* of Antonio's end;
Say how I lov'd you; speak me fair in death. *Shakep.*

They declared unto him the whole *process* of that war, and with what success they had endured. *Knolles.*

Immediate are the acts of God, more swift
Than time or motion; but to human ears
Cannot without *process* of speech be told. *Milton.*

Attends the fatal *process* of the war. *Dryden.*

In the parable of the wasteful steward, we have a lively image of the force and *process* of this temptation. *Rogers.*

3. Course; continual flux or passage.
I have been your wife, in this obedience,
Upward of twenty years; if in the course
And *process* of this time you can report,
And prove it too against mine honour aught,
Turn me away. *Shakep. Henry VIII.*

This neither empire rise,
By policy and long *process* of time. *Milton.*

Many acts of parliament have, in long *process* of time, been lost, and the things forgotten. *Hale's Law of England.*

4. Methodical management of any thing.
Experiments, familiar to chymists, are unknown to the learned, who never read chymical *processes*. *Boyle.*

An age they live releas'd
From all the labour, *process*, clamour, woe,
Which our sad fancies of daily action know. *Prior.*

5. Course of law.
Proceed by *process*,
Left parties, as he is below'd, break out. *Shakep.*

All *processes* ecclesiastical should be made in the king's name, as in writs at the common law. *Hayward.*

The patricians they chose for their patrons, to answer for their appearance, and defend them in any *process*. *Swift.*

PROCESSION, *n. f.* [*processio*, Fr. *processus*, Lat.] A train marching in ceremonious solemnity.

If there be cause for the church to go forth in solemn *procession*, his whole family have such business come upon them, that no one can be spared. *Hooker.*

Him all his train
Follow'd in bright *procession*. *Milton.*

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'Tis the *procession* of a funeral vow,
Which cruel laws to Indian wives allow. *Dryden.*

The priests, Potitus at their head,
In skins of beasts involv'd, the long *procession* led. *Dryden.*

When this vast congregation was formed into a regular *procession* to attend the ark of the covenant, the king marched at the head of his people, with hymns and dances. *Addis.*

It is to be hoped, that the persons of wealth, who made their *procession* through the members of these new erected seminaries, will contribute to their maintenance. *Addis.*

The Ethiopians held an annual sacrifice of twelve days to the Gods; all that time they carried their images in *procession*, and placed them at their festivals. *Bacon.*

TO PROCESSION, *v. n.* [from the noun.] To go in procession.

A low word.

PROCESSIONAL, *adj.* [from *procession*.] Relating to procession.

PROCESSIONARY, *adj.* [from *procession*.] Conflating in procession.

Rogations or litanies were then the very strength and comfort of God's church; whereupon, in the year 506, it was by the council of Aurelia decreed, that the whole church should bestow yearly at the feast of pentecost, three days in that *processionary* service. *Hooker.*

PROCHRONISM, *n. f.* [*προχρονισμός*, Gr.] An error in chronology; a dating a thing before it happened. *Dict.*

PROCIDENCE, *n. f.* [*procidencia*, Lat.] Falling down; dependence below its natural place.

PROCI'NET, *n. f.* [*prociñctus*, Lat.] Complete preparation; preparation brought to the point of action.

When all the plain
Cover'd with thick imbarr'd squadrons bright,
Chariots, and flaming arms, and fiery steeds,
Reflecting blaze on blaze, first met his view;
War he perceiv'd, war in *prociñct*. *Milton.*

TO PROCLAIM, *v. a.* [*proclamo*, Lat. *proclamo*, Fr.]

1. To promulgate or denounce by a solemn or legal publication.
When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, *proclaim* peace unto it. *Deut. xx. 10.*

I *proclaim* a liberty for you, faith the Lord, to the sword and to the pestilence. *Jer. xxxiv. 17.*

Heralds
With trumpet's sound, throughout the host *proclaim*
A solemn council. *Milton.*

While in another's name you peace declare,
Princes, you in your own *proclaim* a war. *Dryden.*

She to the palace led her guest,
Then offer'd incense, and *proclaim'd* a feast. *Dryden.*

2. To tell openly.
Some prodigal wretches, were the apprehensions of punishments or shame taken away, would as openly *proclaim* their atheism, as their lives do. *Locke.*

While the deathless muse
Shall sing the just, shall o'er their head diffuse
Perfumes with lavish hand, she shall *proclaim*
Thy crimes alone. *Prior.*

3. To outlay by publick denunciation.
I heard myself *proclaim'd*. *Shakep.*

PROCLAIMER, *n. f.* [from *proclaim*.] One that publishes by authority.

The great *proclaimers*, with a voice
More awful than the found of trumpet, cry'd
Repentance, and heaven's kingdom nigh at hand
To all baptiz'd. *Milton's Paradise Regain'd.*

PROCLAMATION, *n. f.* [*proclamatio*, Lat. *proclamation*, Fr. from *proclaim*.]

1. Publication by authority.

2. A declaration of the king's will openly published among the people.
If the king sent a *proclamation* for their repair to their houses, some nobleman published a protestation against those *proclamations*. *Clarendon.*

PROCLIVITY, *n. f.* [*proclivitas*, *proclivis*, Lat.]

1. Tendency; natural inclination; propension; proneness.
The sensitive appetite may engender a *proclivity* to steal, but not a necessity to steal. *Bramhall against Hobbs.*

2. Readiness; facility of attaining.
He had such a dextrous *proclivity*, as his teachers were fain to restrain his forwardness, that his brothers might keep pace with him. *Watson.*

PROCLIVOUS, *adj.* [*proclivus*, Lat.] Inclined; tending by nature. *Dict.*

PROCONSUL, *n. f.* [Latin.] A Roman officer, who governed a province with consular authority.

Every child knoweth how dear the works of Homer were to Alexander, Virgil to Augustus, Antonius to Gratian, who made him *proconsul*, Chaucer to Richard II. and Gower to Henry IV. *Peacocks.*

PROCONSULSHIP, *n. f.* [from *proconsul*.] The office of a *proconsul*.

TO PROCRASTINATE, *v. a.* [*procrastino*, Lat.] To defer; to delay; to put off from day to day.

Hopeless and helpless doth Aegeon wind,
But to *procrastinate* his lifeless end. *Shakep.*